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TO: Local Public Health Agencies and other Agencies with interest in Onsite Sewage Environmental Public Health Specialist Vs

FROM: Scott A. Clardy, Administrator
Section for Environmental Public Health

SUBJECT: Requirements for Advanced Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Installers

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Following changes to the Missouri Onsite Sewage Laws in 2004, a Department of Health and Senior Services' (DHSS) rule Governing Onsite Sewage was amended. The rule, which went into effect, September 12, 2004, includes requirements for onsite wastewater treatment system (OWTS) installers. This rule requires that after July 1, 2005, an individual must be registered by DHSS as an advanced OWTS installer to install systems listed by the department as advanced OWTS.

Below is a listing of 'basic' and 'advanced' OWTS. The lists will be subject to change when determined necessary by DHSS to reflect new developments or changes in technology.

Basic OWTS and components:

Building sewers and other sewer lines;
Septic tanks;
Aerobic Treatment Units (ATUs) meeting NSF Standard 40;
Gravity distribution devices, including, but not limited to distribution boxes, drop boxes, and step-downs;
Gravity lateral trenches including:
 4-inch perforated distribution pipe in gravel;
 chambers;
 eight, ten, and twelve-inch diameter gravelless pipe; and
 12-inch expanded polystyrene bundles;
Shallow placed gravity laterals (12 to 18 inches deep in natural soil);
Dosed gravity systems using siphons or pumps to dose into a gravity distribution device or through a manifold into the ends of gravity lateral trenches;
Lagoons;
Holding tanks;
Privies.

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The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services protects and promotes quality of life and health for all Missourians by developing and implementing programs and systems that provide: information and education, effective regulation and oversight, quality services, and surveillance of diseases and conditions.

Advanced OWTS and components:

Alternative and/or engineered treatment or distribution systems including, but not limited to:

- sand filters and other media bio-filters (e.g. peat, textile, and foam);
- constructed wetlands;
- sand mounds;
- low-pressure distribution systems; and
- drip irrigation systems;

Modified shallow placed gravity lateral trenches (six to 12 inches deep in natural soil) and other systems using fill soil material;

Any other system not specifically mentioned.

DHSS recommends all persons involved with the installation of advanced OWTS complete the advanced installer course; however, the following guidance will be used to determine who is required to have advanced registration:

- Any individual who contracts with a property owner to install an advanced OWTS or represents themselves as an advanced OWTS Installer. This will include the person listed as the installer on a construction permit application for an advanced OWTS system. The registered advanced OWTS Installer will be responsible for the system installation.
- The registered advanced OWTS Installer will be responsible for system layout and must be on site during the pre-construction site visit by the administrative authority.
- The registered advanced OWTS Installer must be on site installing and/or directly supervising the installation of advanced system components and controls.
- The registered advanced OWTS Installer will be responsible for system startup and must be on site during the final inspection by the administrative authority.

When advanced OWTS are installed, registered basic OWTS Installers may perform or supervise activities that are not associated with advanced system components or fill soil, such as installing sewer lines, setting sewage tanks, or operating excavation equipment to construct lateral trenches in natural soil. However, the registered advanced OWTS Installer is responsible for the overall system installation.

Expiration dates and continuing education unit (CEU) requirements will remain the same for installers who complete the Advanced Installer Course and registration.

JEG:tlk